

**EXHIBIT –WSOR –Koser -1  
9170-RX-316**

Statement Provided by:  
Matthew Koser

April 12, 2016

My name is Matthew Koser. I am a Manager of Safety and Operating Practices for WATCO Companies, and an Authorized Volunteer Presenter for Operation Lifesaver. Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing safety awareness and spreading a rail safety message to everyone that may be on or near railroad property.

During the first three quarters of 2015, compared to 2014, Wisconsin has seen a 47.62% reduction in collisions at public crossings between vehicles and trains, a 85.71% reduction in fatalities at public crossings resulting from collisions, and a 57.14% reduction in injuries at public crossings resulting from collisions. However, trespassing on railroad property injuries and fatalities, saw an increase of 100%.

Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver's network of Volunteers have put in countless hours in educating the public about the dangers and implications of not complying with laws regarding crossing or trespassing on railroad property. Although we saw reductions in some areas, some areas we did not. And, although there were reductions in vehicle collisions, injuries, and fatalities, these incidents still occurred.

I am writing this statement today in Opposition of the proposed at-grade crossing to be established on the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad's Cottage Grove Subdivision. This crossing is proposed to connect Wagon Trail Street to a proposed extension of the Capital City Trail.

I am Opposed to the construction of this crossing for two main reasons:

- 1) The route that is currently being explored, is being proposed because the Glacial Drumlin State Trail project is delayed in this area. I would propose that the proponents of this project encourage that the Glacial Drumlin portion of this trail be completed in a more timely manner, and therefore this new public crossing would not be needed.

2) Prior to becoming a manager in the Safety Department at WATCO, I was a manager in the Operating Department at the WSOR. I heavily argued for a railroad siding be established on the WSOR Cottage Grove Subdivision to enhance the rail transportation network in and around the Madison area. In my opinion, this siding is essential in ensuring that the customers in the Madison and surrounding areas get the excellent rail service that they deserve. By building more capacity on the existing rail network, we can ensure that economic growth in the region is not hampered by the ability to get rail cars in and out of customers' facilities in the area. This siding is now proposed, and intended to be built.

The proposed Wagon Trail crossing would cross directly through the proposed siding. This would create a number of issues. Firstly, the usefulness of the siding would be reduced since railroad equipment would not be able to be parked in the vicinity of the crossing. Rail cars would have to be left separated at the crossing, creating operational difficulties for railroad employees. Secondly, equipment left standing on the siding would be attractive to people, especially children, to explore and climb on and under. As I stated already above, trespasser fatalities in Wisconsin has increased this year over last year. Lastly, line of sight at the crossing would be greatly reduced by equipment left standing on the siding. Bicyclists and pedestrians would have less of a range of vision when crossing the mainline railroad tracks.

In summary, I cannot support the construction of the Wagon Trail crossing. I believe that although this crossing would benefit the recreational user, by not building it would only delay the project until the rest of the Glacial Drumlin trail is completed. The delay in further completing the project is well worth avoiding the potential tragedy that could occur if someone was injured or killed by inviting them to cross railroad property at this proposed crossing.

I encourage all interested parties to support the Glacial Drumlin State Trail project, and push for its completion in this area, to ensure the safety of the users of the trail, and to support Wisconsin's fantastic rail network.

Thank you,

Matthew R. Koser  
Manager of Safety and Operating Practices -WATCO  
Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteer